A total of 5123 employees have been separated from the Company under Voluntary Retirement Scheme, till date.

List of Journalists covering various News Media

2192. SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have asked the State Government to provide with the list of journalists covering various news media and journalists in the States all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the methods deviced by Government to check and control the Spate of non-accredited journalists in the news reporting;

(d) the action taken against such journalists, State-wise; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) to (e) The Central Government places no restriction that coverage of news/reporting has to be by accredited journalists.

Facts and figures regarding cable operators

2193. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government would be able to provide the facts and figures regarding cable operators in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the revenue being collected as entertainment tax from cable operators in the country per annum ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The statistics regarding the total number of registered cable operators in the country and the rates charged by them are not maintained by the Government. However, the Report on "Indian Media Sector", prepared by HSBC in October, 2000, estimates that there are 30,000 local cable operators in the country.

(c) Data with regard to the revenue being collected as the entertainment tax from cable operators in India per annum is not complied separately. Entertainment tax, being a State subject, is levied and collected by the State themselves.

Indecent scenes shown in the films

†2194. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that despite the presence of Film Censor Board, indecent scenes are still shown in many films;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take other effective steps to check the picturisation of indecent scenes in the films;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) In terms of the provisions contained in the Cinematograph Act, 1952, no film can be released for public exhibition unless it has been certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). The guidelines for certification of films, issued under section 5B of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, already discourage scenes degrading or denigrating women in any manner, scenes involving sexual violence against women like rape or molestation etc. in films. With a view to ensuring exhibition of a film only in its certified form, CBFC has hired, on a test case basis, a private detective agency, to carry out regular checks in theatres in the four metropolitan cities, and report cases to violation to the concerned State authorities for prompt investigation and possible prosecution.

Plans to augment information media in J & K and NER

2195. DR. KARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have cleared plans to augment information media in Jammu and Kashmir and the North-Eastern Region;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.